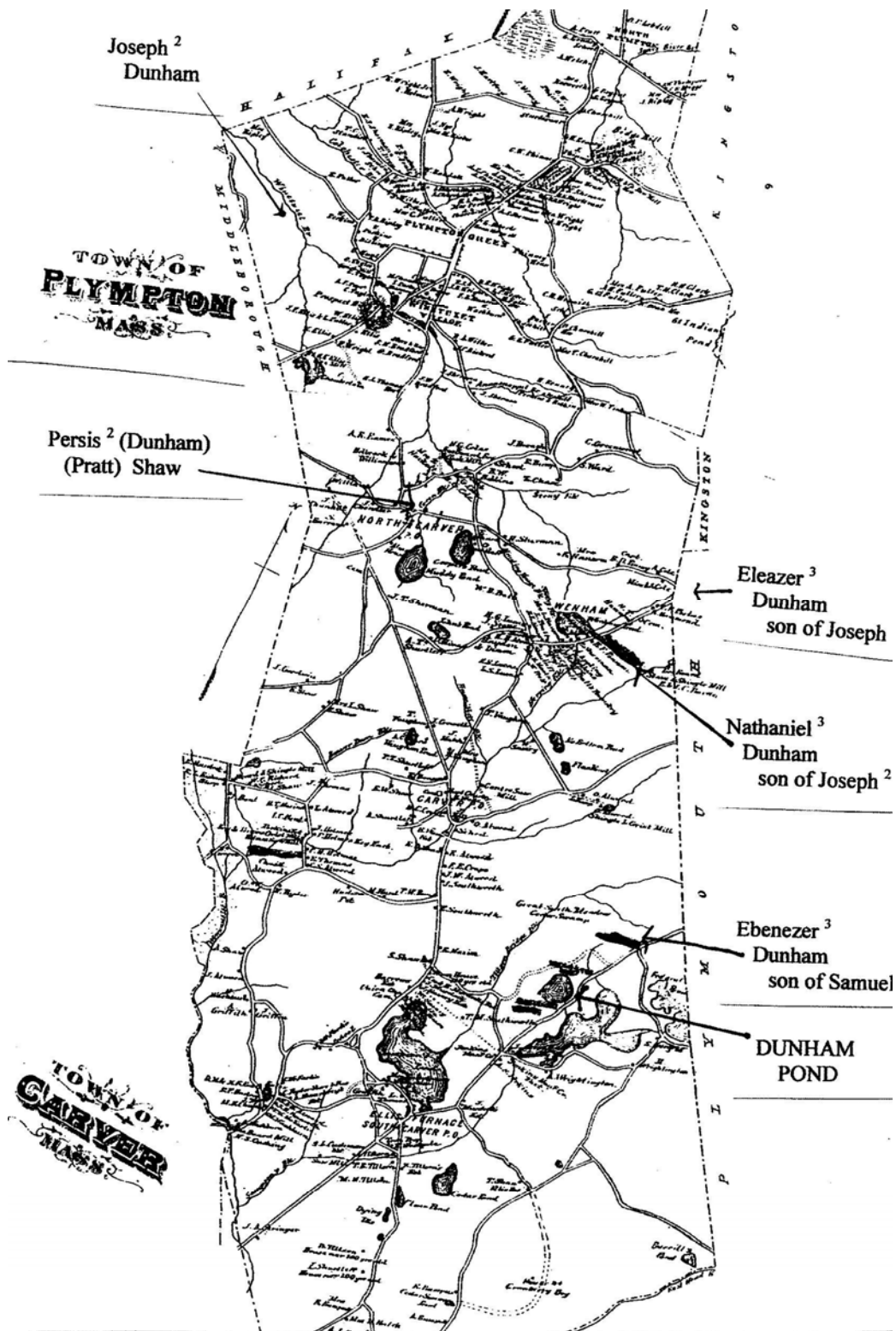




Helen May Pratt, who may have the most compelling Dunham pedigree of all. As Gratia explains in her article in this issue, Helen May Pratt has a seven-fold descent from Deacon John Dunham, through three of his children. In this charming photograph of her, that inheritance seems to have suited her quite well.



From "The Old Maps of Southern Plymouth County,
Mass. in 1879" pub. April 1986
by Saco Valley Printing
Fryeburg, Maine

A Letter from Issac Watson Dunham

Editor's Note

The following letter, which Paul Dunham recently received from Lindsay Dunham, a current member of DSFC, has interest for all of us who may be interested in Dunham family historiography. The letter is from Issac Watson Dunham to Lindsay's great grandfather, David Brainerd Dunham. Issac W. Dunham published in 1907 a book entitled *Dunham Genealogy* with the subtitle *Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1589-1669, and His Descendants*. So far, it is the only extant book-length genealogical source on the Dunham family surname if we exclude David Lee Dunham's interesting book-in-progress and another comprehensive project underway by Gratia Dunham Mahony. There is also Yvonne Brunton's *The Singletary Family History*, but that is on the Singletarys mainly, although an essential resource for Dunham researchers interested in the Singletary branch of Dunhams.

Issac W. Dunham's letter is, as an example, a testament to the value of dispassion and objectivity in historical as well as scientific research. There are many inaccuracies in his book that subsequent researchers have uncovered, and of course we know today through DNA research and collective family records that Jonathan Singletary Dunham, whatever his shortcomings, is indeed the man who changed his name, built the first grist mill in Woodbridge, New Jersey, and is the ancestor of a great number of us today. I.W. Dunham's book

is valuable source material, and in many respects sound. But novice researchers beware: do not use it uncritically.

Hi Paul

You mentionned the Newsletter. The following letter from Isaac Dunham to my great grandfather David Brainerd Dunham might be of interest. There has been a lot of discussion about some of the errors in Isaac's Dunham Genealogy. In this letter he is rather vehement in his opinion about our Jonathan Singletary. The text is as follows.

*From the Office of Prof. Isaac W. Dunham,
347 Summit Ave, Schenectady N.Y. Oct 9
1902*

My dear Kinsman,

I have a very sick son, who is a very heavy real estate dealer and broker and has [had] in his sickness to delegate some of his cases upon me. I have in addition to prepare my annual report as Commissioner to the State Comptroller. This is a year which has thrown upon [me] greater responsibilities than any other for the past fifteen years. Having an earnest desire to evince to you my profound regard for you I feel it a duty to answer your letter of [the] 17th, for in that I fear you have taken a wrong position as to your ancestry. I have worked for my Kinsmen for more than fifty years in studying their history. Nearly one hundred leading students in the Dunham research, have placed in my hands the results of their labors. With my own efforts I am able with such assistance to present a fair outline of the rise and progress of our race. Now pardon me if I in [any] way send a word or words that are in displeasing. I beg of you to consider the motive pure. The information I give is not from one party.

If you have never heard that Jonathan Singletary of Haverhill, Plymouth and New Jersey deserved the opprobrium of "licentiate and thief," there is evidence that your informers were ignorant of or wished to smother the facts that are recorded in Plymouth and New Jersey. Jonathan (Donham) Singletary was driven from Ply-

mouth, from "town to town" out of the colony, for keeping company with a disreputable woman and committing dastardly offences. The records of Plymouth show this. The records in New Jersey, plainly say that he and Leprieve (sic) were apprehended, tried and condemned for stealing goods from the house of of Governor Carteret.

The above is a matter of public record. With this information before me how could I apply milder terms? It is further on record that he was compelled to deed certain property to his Mary.

How different is such a record from that of the real Jonathan Dunham, a nephew of Bennaijah Dunham who came in 1670 to Woodbridge and established a mill and became a prominent citizen. His uncle Bennaijah came in 1672 and settled in Piscataway.

I did not understand by reading your letter that all of your information came from J.E.Marsh, for I know better. I have a high opinion of Mr. Marsh and that he is earnest in his researches, but he is mistaken as to the forefathers of the noble families of Dunham in New Jersey being Singletarys. The spelling of the names Donham and Dunham were both used by the early Dunhams.

I do not wish you for a moment without positive testimony [to] consider yourself a descendant of the Woodbridge Donhams. They are a noble race of men but your progenitor Benyew has no other record but in Middlesex and Somerset Counties. I have the names of the places and when he was a resident. He was a farmer near Amboy, married in Piscataway by his father who officiated at the weddings of his other children. His full record as given me is recorded in the Genealogy. If you can produce other evidence you will confer a favor by correcting your humble friend.

Faithfully yours
Isaac W. Dunham

An Obituary Notice from Millie Proud

Paul and Sam,

I am sad to let you know that my father, Howard O. Dunham (Son of Lytle (Durant) Dunham and Orson Dunham) passed away October 28, 2005 after surgery to repair an... infirmity...in his esophagus. After 2 more surgeries he contacted a bacterial infection and died about a week later... We held his memorial service on October 30. I have a written copy of my part of the service with notes from other family members. I can send it to you via mail or E-Mail. We also made a VCR or DVD copy of the service if you knew Dad or would like to learn about him. Please let me know if you need any more information for the genealogies.

Your family member,
Millie (Dunham) Proud

Obituary Information from Members

The DSFC Newsletter welcomes letters from members or individuals from their families on any obituary information that is relevant news to the members of this association. You may email me directly as you learn of this information and I shall see that is posted in the next Newsletter as a letter to the Editor. Needless to say, these notices should not be long, unless the deceased had an extraordinarily distinguished or outstanding career that would be of newsworthy interest to our members. But we want to know when Dunham family members, and especially our own members, pass away. SED